



RE: Proposed US 29/74 (Wilkinson Boulevard) Improvements

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A Public Meeting for STIP No. U-6146 was held on Thursday, April 4, 2019 at the McAdenville Wesleyan Church located at 300 Wesleyan Drive from 4 – 7pm. Postcards were mailed on March 18, 2019 to 1,064 businesses and residences. Approximately 56 citizens attended the public meeting and 11 comments were received from the community. The below table summarizes the themes and comments received.

Themes	Number	Percentage
Support Project	3	12%
Do not want project/ Do not support project	0	0%
Hump installed on Wesleyan to deter speeders	1	4%
Support sidewalks, trail & bridge beautification	2	8%
Allow clearance over Cramerton greenway	1	4%
Allow grading of greenway now and close during construction of bridge	3	12%
Greenway funding	1	4%
Facility to provide access to Cramerton and future greenway	2	8%
10-ft pathway on both sides of road	1	4%
Affect on proposed light rail	1	4%
Concerns with project	2	8%
Elements of Build a Better Boulevard Corridor implemented	1	4%
Utilities underground	1	4%
Project timeline and length of construction	1	4%
Not notified about public meeting	1	4%
Don't want to lose business	1	4%
Include decorative lighting, Market, Wesleyan, under bridge	1	4%
Maximum pedestrian protection at Market/Wesleyan	1	4%
Traffic maintenance during construction	1	4%
TOTALS	25	100%



22 May 2019
STIP No. U-6146 Public Meeting Summary

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Summary of responses to questions:

The project was shifted to the north due to the Colonial Pipeline that runs on the southside of Wilkinson Boulevard. This is a major gas line that provides fuel for the east coast. Approximately 1,600 feet of the pipeline would have been affected with a shift to the south at an estimated relocation cost of approximately \$8,000,000.

The U-6146 project will accommodate the proposed light rail connecting the Silver Lynx line from Gastonia to Matthews. The light rail cannot be placed on the Wilkinson Boulevard bridge due to different loading requirements; therefore, a separate bridge will need to be constructed for the proposed light rail.

The Wilkinson Boulevard improvements project will not delay the Cramerton Greenway connection. The Town of Cramerton may construct a temporary trail prior to construction. However, the portion of the trail under the bridge will be closed during construction and the temporary trail will likely be damaged due to heavy construction equipment.

The current design provides a 10-foot multi-use path on the north side of Wilkinson Boulevard and a 5-foot sidewalk on the south. Sidewalks are also proposed along some of the side streets to provide connectivity. However, the placement of a multi-use path and sidewalks are contingent upon cost-share participation from all local municipalities in the project area and Gaston County.

Right-of-Way acquisition is anticipated to begin in late 2019 and construction in late 2020. It is anticipated that construction will take approximately 18-24 months to complete the Wilkinson Boulevard improvements.

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